

Message Text

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72-62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 DODE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 DRC-01 /050 W
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R 151830Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7943

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 0881

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MARR, HA

SUBJECT: GOH REQUEST FOR TDY FIREFIGHTING INSTRUCTORS AT NO COST
TO USG

1. GOH HAS ACQUIRED FIVE (5) NEW INTERNATIONAL/AMERICAN LA FRANCE FIRE TRUCKS BY COMMERCIAL PURCHASE. PREOCCUPIED WITH PROBLEMS OF FIREFIGHTING IN LIGHT OF NATIONAL PALACE FIRE LAST JULY, TWO SCHOOL FIRES EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND FIRE IN NATIONAL INSURANCE OFFICE EARLIER THIS WEEK, GOH WOULD LIKE TO PUT TRUCKS IN SERVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, PORT AU PRINCE FIREMEN HAVE NO EXPERIENCE IN OPERATION OR MAINTENANCE OF THIS NEW EQUIPMENT.

2. CHIEF OF STAFF ASKED DATT MAY 13 TO INQUIRE INTO FEASIBILITY OF DETAILING TWO U.S. INSTRUCTORS SKILLED IN FIREFIGHTING TECHNIQUES AND FIRE TRUCK MAINTENANCE TO PORT AU PRINCE FOR TWO WEEKS' INTENSIVE TRAINING OF PORT AU PRINCE FIREMEN IN USE OF NEW INTERNATIONAL/LA FRANCE TRUCKS. GOH WOULD PAY ALL COSTS FOR INSTRUCTORS INCLUDING FOOD AND LODGING DURING THEIR STAY.

3. COMMENT: IN THE LIGHT OF SUCCESSFUL US NAVY CIVIC ACTION EFFORTS HERE (CLEARANCE OF CAP HAITIEN HARBOR AND USS SANCTUARY VISIT), AND THE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE OF US NAVY FIREFIGHTERS FROM GUANTANAMO AT PALACE FIRE LAST JULY, THIS LOOKS LIKE A PROJECT THE US NAVY COULD HANDLE VERY WELL.

4. RECOMMENDATION: THAT DEPARTMENT EXPLORE WITH NAVY
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DEPARTMENT (CAPTAIN R. L. STEWART) THE POSSIBILITY OF

HANDLING THIS ASSIGNMENT AND AS APPROPRIATE PUT CAPTAIN
STEWART IN TOUCH WITH COLONEL DORCE TO WORK OUT DETAILS.

5. DATT CONCURS.
ISHAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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